Ten Songs from
Mother And Child

an opera in one act

Ron Whyte, librettist — Lee McClure, composer

Scenario

A young Italian mother, Angelina, confronts the birth of her baby who was born without hands or feet. She is shunned by her neighbors who say that her baby has "the evil eye". In her subsequent stages of fear and guilt, she appeals to her statue of the Virgin Mary for guidance. After asking if she should "give her baby back", she receives no answer. In hysterical anger she damages the statue and smashes rosary beads. When her baby quietly coughs, she sings her a lullaby and decides she wants her baby to live. During a moment of desolation, she experiences an epiphany of how to save her baby girl and finds the will to action.

The soprano, Angelina, is accompanied throughout the opera by a Greek chorus of mezzo-soprano and contralto who take on the voices of Angelina, her doctor, and community members.

Timeline

0:00	*She Smiles*
1:03	*I Ask You For An Answer*
1:30	*Then I will Giver Her To You Now*
1:59	*You Don't Answer*
2:36	*There Is No God*
3:51	*My Poor Baby*
5:24	*This Is A Sign*
7:14	*The Virgin Has Made A Miracle*
9:02	grand accelerando to *Help Call A Priest*
10:55	*Maybe Someday*
11:39	(end – applause)

The Ten Songs are recordings assembled from:

Mother And Child (45 min):
Staged reading May 23, 1990
Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, NYC

Mother And Child Suite (14 min)
Concert performance, Sept. 7, 1990
Eclectix concert, CAMI Hall, NYC

Singers:
Judi Silvano, soprano, role: Angelina
Linda LoPresti, mezzo-soprano, role: Mother #2 (Greek chorus)
Holly Durniak, contralto, role: Mother #3 (Greek chorus)

Musicians:
Bill Grossman, music director, conductor
Mike Finkel, David Runnion – cellists
Neil Swanson, Christopher Vassiliades – pianists

Artistic Staff:
Stephen McCabe, stage director and costume, props designer
Liz Goodall, props designer

Mother And Child, the film of performance on May 23, 1990 with subtitles can be see at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtiSiK_hZOA contact: eclectixnyc@gmail.com